

1111
A Copye of a verye fyne and
vvytty letter sent from the ryght
Reuerende Levves Lippomanus byshop of
Verona in Italy, and late Legate in Po-
lone, from the moste holy and blef-
sed father Pope Paule the fourth,
and from his moste holy
sea of Rome.

Translated out of the Italyan lan-
guage by Michael
Throckmorton.

Lippomanus
Curtigiane of Rome.
1556.

To the Reader.

S His letter of the byshop of Verona greeteth
Reader, though it be short in wordes, yet
if thou consider it wel, it is long & pitche in
matter. For it plainly displayeth the pra-
ctises not onely of the Popish Prelates,
wherby they haue procured and propped vp their
kingdome so longe to continue, and what deuises
they haue to make it (if it possibly might be) euer
lastyng: but also of all other wicked that seke em-
pire and gloze in this world, not caring nor passing
how vntuly they come by it. But God (against
whose gloze, this kingdome of Antichrist is no lesse
contrary than the kingdome of the deuill him self,
and who wil not the euill to come by, or at the leaste
long entoy his desyre) myndeth, as thou mayst per-
ceauie, the end of this wicked kingdom of Antichrist
and wold that al other wicked mens purposes shuld
be letted. For he maketh (as ihou seest, the subtille,
maugre their teeth) to open their owne subtiltie, &
the wicked to vtter his owne wickednes, so that kno-
wing the one, thou mayst easily iudge al. Wherefore
if thou wilt not shew thy selfe ouermuche ingrate,
thou arte prouoked to confesse his greate mercy to-
ward his pooze shepe, and to praise him for his loue
and fauour toward thee. And onlesse the nobilitie
and people in euery countrey will shew them selfe
viterly boyd of reason, they wyl (now God hath be-
gon) put to their handes & wittes to pul their nees-
kes from vnder the tyranny of the bishop of Rome,
God and mans enemy) and such wicked practisers
& not willingly put their owne neckes into halters,
but rather defend the selues, according to Goddes
law, & the law of nature, than to suffre the selues to
be wilfully murdered. Take God for his giftes,
shut not thine eyes against his light, serue hym, and
be



he will not faile the in thy needs, but prosper what
so euer thou shalt take in hande, hauing his seate &
gloire before thyne eyes.

Farewell.

To the most reuerende Reynold

Cardinall Pole Legate a Latere, Arche-

bishop of Cantor. Portuonare of VVy-

chester, &c. Metropolitan and pri-

mate of all Englande.

Albeit I doubt not but your
grace procedeth in ordinarie pra-
ctise as other your complices & col-
legees doo, for the maintenance &
proppying vp of your prelacy & Papisical
kingdom, yet I thought good to aduertise
your grace (by this translated letter folowig
of the practise & proceeding of your very frend
& bishop of Merona, legate in Polone, who
although he hath had sinistre successe in the
Popes affaires in that realme by reason of
ouerlorned Princes, & men of ouer much
experisce in prelates practises, yet if his tru-
sted frendes had not disclosed his secretes,
there had ben better hope of his enterprise.
And nowe lyke as the displayeng of his se-
cretes in sundry tongues hath dissolued his
doinges, and marred the Popes market for
euer, not onely in Polone and Prussia, but
also in sundry other places and dominions
where this practise is bruted, and no hope of

A. II.

redzette,

redresse, onles bysting helpe; so must your
grace with the rest of your Englishe prela-
tes vse faire woozdes, familiar entertain-
mente and liberalitie towarde the nobles
of Englande in tyme, and yet where by-
bynge and bealpycheare wyl not serue, you
must take occasion by one pretense or other
to go in, as ye haue wll begon, in choppyng
of theyr heades, and hangyng by for holy-
dayes of the suspected fauourers of the go-
spell, and as nere as ye may, make the En-
glishe bloude thynne, namelye the gentil-
men and riche people, so that when they are
ones pulled vnder foote, ye maye pyl and
subdue the commons at your pleasure and
transpose the realme as ye luste. And as I
dout not the experienced dexteritie of your
handlyng the popes affaires in England in
byngyng the realme into hunger, misery,
and dissencion, so were it to be wysshed that
your Prelates and vnskilled cleargye in o-
ther places, wer instructed in y lyke practi-
ses with all silence and secrecy, least the by-
sout of hypocrisy beynge plucked of (as the
byshop of Aleronas vnlucky chaunce was,
and your bybynge and bloudsheadyng co-
mynge ones to lyght) cause further peryll to
your states than hytherto hath ben felt.

The God of al mercy and might confound
all false and wicked practysyng. Amen.

Your graces most humble seruant B. C.

To the ryght honourable may:

ster Peter Conterini, gentylman of
Vencee, at Rome

Ryghte honourable syr, I haue dy-
uers tymes syth it hath pleased god
to trouble me by makynge me to
take in hand this enterpryse of Polone wri-
ten to your honour, as to one that both for
countrepeys sake, and for our olde acquan-
taunce, and also for his goodnes both vou-
chesafe to bee my father and protectour in
my great tozmentes and troubles, wherein
I haue ben wapped, prayeng you alwayes
that it woulde please you to ayde me with
your anthozitie (whych is so greate with
our holy fathers holmes) that I may be ha-
ble to come out of this helle, and retourne
to Rome, or to my church. But all the trou-
bles passe are nothyng in respecte of those
that I suffer at this presente, the whiche I
can not but write vnto you, to thintent that
your honour vnderstanding it, may be mo-
ued to haue compassion on my misfortune,
and to doo your vttermoost to cause me to be
called home, whiche I beseeche you on my
knees lifyng by my handes. The new turo-
moiles wherof I write vnto you be these.

The lord Nicholas Raduill Counte Pa-
latin of Wilna is doubtles one of the gretest

A.iii.

men

men of power & authoritie within all the
realme of Polone. And as he is also one of
the chiefest that dothe fauour and promote
the cause of the Lutheriāns, so he shulde not
be. Powe I being such a mā both of nature
& sure iudgement y I can not (I can not, I
say) suffer y the most holy sea apostolike of
Rome shulde be thus ret in pieces & railed
on, as I see it every daye rent & railed on in
dede. I determined with my selfe no lōger
to dissemble, but to pull of my visour, and
to write vnto this lord a playne letter as
my mynde without respecte.

Nevertheless to colour y matter the bet
ter, I sayned, y one M. Adam Conars kye
secretary to y kinge, had saluted me by his
letters, & had reherfed many frendely woꝝ
des on the behall of his lordship. And vpon
this occasion I began my letter, whettynge
my wittes, & makynge it as earnest and as
pithy as I coulde possible: and I sente it
by the 21. of February, at whiche time I
was at a castell of y archbishop of Gnezna
called Louitz, where I also am at this pre
sent. The effect of this letter was, y I admo
nished this lord Count Palatine, how tho
rough the hole realme it was comonly re
ported, that his lordship agreed with y Lu
therians in all pointes. And I began to re
herse theym vnto him particularly one by
one. And in the ende I exhorted him to giue
ouer

ouer & leaue these hereticall opinions, for
otherwise God woulde punish the hym. The
truth is, I touched all the hole rable of the
Lutherans, and spake of their doinges, as
muche as the greate and inwarde hatred I
beare them could expresse. For in dede ther
is none euill, but it maye be well spoken of
those villaines. This lord the Counte Pa-
latine, who I thought seinge my letters so
true and so wel proued with good reasons,
shuld haue bene pulled from his practisynge
with the Lutherans, made me such an an-
swer (right honorable M. Petre) as Martin
Luther him selfe wold not haue done, I do
not say, vnto a man in my state (which are
neuer theles a minister & legate, albeit vn-
worthy of our holy fathers holynesse, & of
his most holy see of Rome) but not to any
comon person wer he neuer so vile & misera-
ble. I would haue sent your honour a copp
of the same answer, but to tell you the truth
me thought it wold sound to our very great
shame, if it should be redde. And therfore I
tremble for very feare, least by one meanes
or other it will be put forth in print, and
perchaunce translated into diuers tongues.
For I knowe the casse of these heretykes
wherewith God is not pleased. But it maye
please your honour to heare the rest.

When I was in the yeare .1548. ioyned in
commission with the most Reuerende than

bisshop of fane now woꝛthyly a Cardinal
& with the Reuerend of good memory, se-
rentinus our holy fathers nuncio oz legate
in Germany, after the victoꝛy that thempe-
ror had ouer the protestantes, to byng and
recõcile & pꝛincis & people to the obedience
of the sea apostolike (foꝛ so was the pretẽce
of our ambassade, albeit it succeeded not ve-
ry prosperously, & we reconciled, very few)
there wer at that tyme pꝛisoners to thempe-
roꝛs maiesty John Friderike, Duke & Cur-
fuster of Saronie, & Philip Landtgrauẽ of
Hesse. Than I with my right reuerend col-
legues, as obedient childzen, accoꝝdyng to
our instructiõs gaue counsell to themperoz
and his most noble bzother the kyng of Ro-
mains, that they shuld cause those two pꝛin-
ces heades to be openly cut of, as the ring-
leaders and mainteynours of heretikes.
Foꝛ by this meanes and with this terrour
an ende at length shoulde haue ben made of
all heresies in Germany. But their mai-
esties thought it not best to folow such coun-
saile, and therfoꝛe, the matters of the sea
Apostolike be in that countrey as they be
that is, they were neuer in woꝛse case, and
I see, they wyl be euery day woꝛse & woꝛse.
And I hauing the like commission at this
present frõ our most holy father pope Paul
the fourth, haue often geuen counsaile to
this most noble king of Polone, exhoꝛtyng
hym

him that he wold cause to be cut of. viii. 02
heades of the most chiefe of those that go a-
boni to stirre vp this doctrine of the Luth-
rans in Polone: For this is the right way
to kepe the realme cleane from heresies

It is true, y I haue gyue this coucel to the
kinges maiestie, & I haue vttered it vnto one
y is in great authoritie w him, to thintet he
shuld helpe to perswade him. Nowe suche a
matter of so great impoꝛtaunce which wold
haue ben kepte so secrete as euer any was,
least it shuld brede moze enny & hatred vnto
the most holy vicars of Ch:ist, suche a mat-
ter I say, I feare it be disclosed & opened a-
bode in euery corner. For y said lord Cou-
nte Palatine hath laid it to my charge by his
letters: & hauiug witten it, it is no doubt but
he hath spoken it, & wil speke it vnto others.

Now pleseth it your honoꝛ to consider, in
what case I stande, and of what mynde I
maye be, and whether I haue reasonable
cause to desire to be dispatched hẽce. Those
that be y promoters of these heresies be ma-
ny & mighty. I haue done what I coulde to
ridde the woꝛld of them. Truly ther hath be
no lack on my behalf. What think you ther
wil do towarde me if I cotinue log in their
etes: I ca lōke for non other thā to be baned
cursed railed & cried out vpo, if no woꝛs hap-
pe. But this is y greuethe me most, that they
wil go about to sprede horrible tales abode
against

against our holy fathers holynesse, not only
in Polone, but also throughout al Germa-
ny, & wyl saye, as their maner is, that these
be the Councels that his holynes wyl make:
that is, with choppyng of heades, & other
such like violences: Pea I vnderstand they
speake it all redy, and wonderfully blow it
abrode: wherby I doo perceiue a woderful
impedimēt & hurt to the doing of those thin-
ges y^e the most Reuerend and noble Cardi-
nall of Caraffa hath lately comitted vnto
me by his letters, that is, to let them vnder-
stand, that this their desire to make a nation-
all counsell, is a part and point of an here-
tike. And that therfore they speake not nor
thinke therof, but tary for a general councel,
which his holynes wyl shortly make. I say
in this now am I altogether occupied, and
I thought I myght haue don some good in
deferrynge and prolongynge the tyme, as
his holynes desyre is: but the matter beynge
disclosed (as I haue sayd befoze) I can not le-
but al men be against me, no man wyl here
me, all mens myndes are alienate from me
and vtterly set against me. In so much (to be
short) wer it not for these most reuerend fa-
thers, specially this most Reuerend father,
the said Archbishop, who is my sanctuary,
I could not tell where to saue my lyfe, they
speake so muche euyl of me. And whan they
haue nathing to talk of, than they go about
saying

saying; thet knowe for what cause I can not
be made cardinal: as thogh I shuld be agrey
with God for that it hath plesed him I shuld
be bozn out of lawfull matrimony. I am con
tēt it hath plesed him to make me to be bozn
a chrissten man, and therfore I passe not vpo
that other. But this cōbreth me exceedingly
to vnderstād that ther goth about a certain
letter printed in diuers tongues, wherein
bicause I was assistent to the most reuerēd
of good memozy Cardinall Crescentius &
Legate in the councel of Trent, al thyng is
imputed to me & my counsel that was done
in the same councel of Trent, and specially
that audience was not geuen to the Luth
rans, as in dede it was not mete nor ought
to be. For I confesse, that I haue alwayes
ben of this opinion, that he which is out of
y church, ought not to be admitted to speak
of matters of the church. But those that
vnderstand it on the contrary part, whan I
shall speake any moze of the holdynge of a
generall counsell, will out of all peraduen
ture say to my face, that we mynd to make
it suche a Counsel as he counsailed & labour
ed to be don at Trēt: that is not to here the
other parte. Your honour with your noble
brethern M. Francisce (the light of the com
mon welth of Venyce) and M. Paule made
so much of, and gaue so muche honoz vnto
our holy fathers holynes, when he was a
bare

barefooted Friar at Venere, that his holyness beyng most myndfull and thankfull I knowe, is desirous also to requite and doo you pleasure agayne. Wherefore I hartily beseeche your honour let it stande with your pleasure to bestowe one droppe of the fauor that ye are in, and cause me to bee rydde out of these troubles and daungers. And it may please his holyness to vnderstand, that it is to no purpose for me to haue the doyng of thynges here any longer, for the greates hatred that I haue already purchased me. Let his holyness consyder whether it be better to send one to supply my place, or to leue this realme without any Legate, which in myne opynion were best, bicause he can not be here any longer with honoz & estimation. Moreover I thinke, that when that shalbe done, and is done, yet these men wil haue it after their owne fantasy, and there wyl be agreat scisme, so that the nobilitie will follow one way and one doctrine, and the byshops an other. And yet I can tell you, not all the byshops, for one part of them begyn to halte, and a lyttel thyng will make them agree with the Counte Palatine (of whom I wryte) and the others. But lette his holyness doo, as it pleaseth hym, in sendynge or not sendynge an other Legate to supply my place, so he dispatche me hence, & that quick. Who can see, who can suffer, that at the

thzostid

Whofside, difguifpunges, mafkes, & mimu-
meries of monkes, fryers, and Cardinals,
fhulde be openly made, to the open fhams &
reproche of all the hole order of the Chur-
che, as there hath ben here in my time: And
who can difgeft thefe troubles, thefe villa-
nies, and not thynke vppon the daunger of
his lyfe: Muche good doo it hym: Iurely I
aknowlage my felfe to be a manne that can
not doo it. And I haue no hope that I fhall
be hable hereafter to do any good here. To
be playn I haue done as muche as was pos-
fible for me to doo, to lette the diet and par-
liamēt that fhall be kept at Bartilmew tide:
But yet notwithstandinge it will procede.
Neither fhall it auaille to waft my bzaines &
deftroy my body, fuffring my felfe to be toft
from place to place in Touche, in company
of the faid moft reuerende Archbifhop tho-
rough all the greater and the leffe Polone,
and fo to haue brought to paffe, that the no-
ble kyng hath geuen cōmandemēt contra-
ry to the determinacion & conclusion of the
laft parliamēt, as I aduertifed our holy fa-
thers holynes, to þe great grudging of þe ad-
uerfaries. Besides I fear leſt theſe felowes
ſhall cauſe men to come out of Germany, &
ſpecially out of Schwitzerland half a doſin
of the greateſt clerkes & moſt famous diui-
nes þe be ther, bicauſe it is bzuted abzode, þe
the Pope mynded to ſende of his diuines
to

to this parliament to defend our cause. And
all be it I haue bothe sayd and earnestly as-
firmed in euery place, that they shulde not
thinke, that his holynes will ever sende or
consent to any such parliament, which shal
be none other but a nationall counsell. Yet
neuertheles as farre as I can vnderstand,
they mynd to cause of our enemies, disuines
of other countreys to come hither: Your ho-
nour may consider, what confections these
men wil make, and what cōsultations and
conclusions they wyl determine agaynst
vs. God helpe vs, for I se the matters be in
a very euill case. I recomende me vnto
your honoz. Frō Louitz the 20. of July. 56.

Your honours seruant Ludouicus Lippo-
manus byshop of Verona, the vauvor-
thye Legate.

Postscripte.

I Am aboute to make a Conuocation
of all the byshoppes and prelates of
this Realm, and wyl begyn it now
in Petriconia. Two thinges I hope I
shall obteyn there, the one to gather a great
summe of money, and I trust the popes ho-
lynnes wyl be a contributor vnto it (for so
hath he put me in hope) wherby we may be
better able to defend our matters, aboue all
thynges contentyng theim, and stoppyng
their monthes which be importunately bu-
sy, and make much trouble vs aboe. And
we

We haue ofte promed, that this practisef is a
very good way: And so conde, that there be
some correction of lyfe of the cleargy, who
(to be playne) are a very euyl example. But
the mischief is, that the reformation of ma-
ners is at this present to lyttell purpose, to
prelerne our high estate and authorite. For
those curled Heretikes pretende and ceye,
that the doctrine must be corrected. As for
example: they be not contente that the prie-
stes shulde be honest wyse, and discrete, but
they wyl haue the masse al togither hurled
awaye. Nother are they contented, that the
Pope shuld be a modest man and of a virtu-
ous lyfe, and that he shuld not receyue mo-
ney for spiritual thyngs, but they wyl, that
there shoulde be no Pope nother good nor
hadde. This is the pycke, this is the marks
they shoote at. I say, we are in an euyl case.

The xiiij. of Iulye.

The same. L. Lippomanus. Legate.

I haue this daye receaued lettres frō
Venice, whiche haue encreaced so-
roldes vpon sorowe. For one my be-
try frende, wyrteth vnto me, that the
hate of the seruice, which I haue don here
and of the contentions that I haue founde
in these partes, chiefly with the sayd Coun-
te Palatine, comming to the eares of myne
honorable lordes of Venice, their honours
be.

be very sozry complaisse and lament of his
sayeng, that they be a fraid, least I beeing
a Venetian, and of the bloud I am of, the
Alemaines and pbleakes will beleue, that
the lordes of Venece them selues consent
to at my doinges, wherby thei may hereaf-
ter bee partakers of the same hatred that
they goe about to stire against the Pope,
and perhappes, at one tyme or at an other
of the self same daungers. And to saye the
truth, these men spread abroad very much
how because I am a venetian, all thynges
please the venetians that I do, and that I
would not doo it, if I knewe it shoulde dis-
please their honours.

To conclude, for all respectes, for the ad-
uancement of the cause and maters of our
holy fathers holynes, for not encombzing
of my lordes of Venece with these mē, and
for the suretie of my life, it shal be wel done
to call we away hence. I wold gladly haue
ben called away by som other meanes, and
with some other honour: but patience, thin-
ges be at such a popnte, that I must thinke
bpon my lyfe, and not bpon honour. I shall
lacke none hereafter, if I can escape hence
with life. Yet eftsones I commende me vnto
to your honour. The xxii. of Iulye.

The same Levvis-Lippoma-
nus Legate.

BRITISH
MUSEUM
14 FEB 1907

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